

104 Spruce Lane  
Shepherdstown, WV 25443

May 6, 1999

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Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852

Subject: Public Comment for Docket #98N-1038, "Irradiation in the production, processing and handling of food"

Dear Sir or Madam:

I strongly urge FDA to do the following in regard to irradiated food:

- It is essential that prominent labeling be used.
- The terms "IRRADIATION" or "IRRADIATED" must be used.
- The radura symbol must be used.

I definitely do not want to use irradiated foods nor to support this practice. Unless you label things PROMINENTLY so that I can easily see it (I find it difficult to read small print on labels), my consumer rights to know what I am eating and serving to others are taken away from me. Without labeling, I cannot know if food has been irradiated.

It is essential that there should be a label for irradiated components of mixed food.

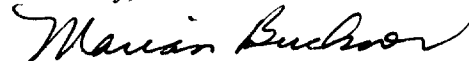
Here is why I want prominent labeling of irradiated food. I do not want to use it for irradiated fats may become rancid. Rancidity is a health risk. Vitamins are lost. I am concerned that irradiation may create free radicals, that play a role in creating carcinogens. While the amounts are tiny, it is known that even tiny amounts can be a mutagenic dose.

I am particularly concerned that your own study showed that the production of fungal aflatoxins, which are serious carcinogens, is stimulated 100-fold when grains and vegetables infected by fungal spores are irradiated. Further, human beings concentrate certain toxins in body fat, so these may accumulate in the body.

Further, there have already been accidents involving the radioactive materials used in the process, when workers were exposed to radiation. There is little use of irradiation, yet US taxpayers have already footed \$30 million in cleanup costs in Georgia.

There are other reasons, but I will not go into them here. Please consider my remarks.

Sincerely,

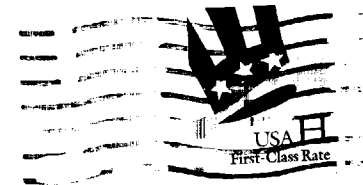


Mrs. Marian Buckner

98N-1038

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RE: DOCKET # 98N-1038